

**North Beach area state parks
Stage One
Issues from public workshop**

March 30, 2008

The purpose of stage one is to understand your hopes and concerns. This helps the planning team get a sense of the range and type of issues it must consider through the planning process. Comments will also be used to determine environmental impacts consistent with State Environmental Policy Act.

These comments are from the public workshop on March 18, 2009. Verbatim comments about each state park are in column one with the names and contact information removed.

We have attempted to group issues as follows:

State Park or Property
Recreational, Natural or Cultural Issue
Main idea of the comment

We may have made mistakes. If you see your comment grouped with other comments that do not make sense to you, please contact Brian Hovis.

Additional written comments (E-mail preferred) are always welcome. Comments received before April 15, 2009 will be shared with the planning team before its next meeting.

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Verbatim Comments	Park/Main Issue
When you closed Damon Park did you have any plan where people would park and consider that people would know where the park is; they are now walking on private prop.	Damon Point Recreation - Public access
Issue of parking at Damon Point. What is the plan now that the lot is gone?	Damon Point Recreation - Public access
What happens when a park is closed? Damon has only day use with very little service.	Damon Point Recreation - Public access
Could area between bridge to beach at Heath Rd and entrance to Griffith-Priday be used as park with parking for bridge and path between from Griffith-Priday to bridge. How about charging planes that land at beach airport. Or charge aeronautic groups to pay yearly fee?	Griffith-Priday – Recreational - Future development
I would like parks to include the Ghost Forest, on the Copalis River to preserve it for the public. And build a human powered boat launch on the east side of Griffith Priday.	Griffith-Priday – Natural - Preservation
Any chance of submitting a grant request for this period to acquire this land (Ghost Forest)?	Griffith-Priday – Natural - Preservation
Ghost Forest status	Griffith-Priday – Natural - Preservation
Possible protection/preservation of Copalis River “Ghost Forest”? A unique resource.	Griffith-Priday – Natural - Preservation
Is an economic driver for Ocean Shores. After the tourist season July-Sept a substantial portion of shoulder season comes from RVs and campers. Stores will close. We need more spots for full hook-up.	Ocean City Recreational - Future development
We need to expand the non-RV portion of the park. Is that possible at all in this economy?	Pacific Beach Recreational - Future development

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How about charging planes that land at beach airport. Or charge aeronautic groups to pay yearly fee?	Seashore Conservation Area Recreational - Airport
Can some mothballs be turned to stewardship for operation and maintain. Mainly camping on the beach.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
Funding, offer annual membership cards. Off sets expense of keeping parks open. Parks with a membership: Discounted off of merchandise, Camp for so many nights get one free, etc., etc.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
Won't it be more money over the long-term to moth-ball a park & reopen, due to regular maintenance not being done over a long period of time? Are we thinking than the money it will take to re-open & re-build/repair the closed parks?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
This park is rarely used especially with the loss of the beach access. Perhaps this location should be closed permanently and sold.	Damon Point Recreation - Public access
Our economy out here is dependant on tourists and this would be hitting us at an already low point. This would in effect cut the ocean off as a destination to many longtime campers.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Is <u>usage</u> considered when selection is made	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Who would serve other parks in the area. Who protects the resources once a parks is closed. Where do the staff go once the park is closed. Impacts on other parks in area.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Make the parks very basic. Make them for camping, they are not spas!	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
Heaven forbid, rangers should make work for themselves! Make contingency plans to make Twin Harbor refugee camp. Emergency plans disaster plans.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings

Verbatim Comments	Park/Main Issue
Get some of that economic incentive/stimulus and make Ocean City and Pacific self supporting or nearly so, with yurt, etc. like Ike Kinswa and Steamboat.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
The park is very important to our local economy and businesses. Brings in a lot of revenue. Very detrimental if closed. Can we enter a public private enterprise situation? Can the county run it?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
If seeking an ocean experience if parks along Washington coast are not available then people will go to Oregon and take the revenue with them! Or if fees are raised to high!	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
There are more than 15 privately owned campgrounds. Plus 4 membership campgrounds on the North Beach. With the current economy and people traveling less why is it such a bad idea to support the local small business who are struggling to survive. The overnight visitors who stay at the individual parks would have better business and those campers would still spend \$ in Ocean Shores.. (I know I am in the minority in this room)	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
What percent of closures are on the Olympic Peninsula.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Mothballing a park to be opened later will not work. If closed, they stay closed and deteriorate, making it too expensive to re-open. I definitely feel the parks should be kept open. They are filled to capacity many times, especially in the summer. Before moving to Ocean Shores, I used one or more of the parks and enjoyed them. And of course, economy is to be considered, both from the campers point of view but also the local businesses.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
The parks are very important to our tourism industry. So it is more than just limiting recreation opportunities for people using these parks. Special consideration should be given to this tourism element and hopefully, these two parks could be spared in this moth ball proposal. Especially the impact on Ocean Shores.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Ocean City State Park is one of our only parks on the beach (Ocean Beach) and Washington State is a west coast state. It's a natural beauty on the beach, very unique! Closing it is unconscionable.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Who did the statistics on financial and cost? What consideration of tourist money was considered in lowering fund for cities. What parks are paying for themselves and Ocean City park is booked 9 months in advance.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks

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How many will be impacted? People who drive 2+ hours need facilities: We the taxpayers of O.S. <u>pay</u> for police & rescue!	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Use fees seem the way the public wishes govt to pay for services (see tolls on new bridges and roadways) what would that figure be to cover the costs?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
WA parks website (under the budget-agenda links (March agenda) contains a list of “potential parks: for closure and prior section discusses “criteria for selection. Implication is that some meeting/not meeting would survive. Your intro comments implied “all parks on the list would be closed which is it?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Our community depends upon the park for sites for people who travel to and spend dollars in our city. If you close the park, our community faces a potentially large economic hit. In the face of our state’s bleak budget predictions, why close a park that creates revenue.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
While Parks Dept staff cannot ask citizens to contact their State Legislature or in any way “lobby” them, the most effective time to provide input is <u>before</u> they vote.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Homeless people live in Ocean City State Park in trailers, (for 7 days at a time). What happens to them, when the park closes?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
What about tourist center at Ocean City Park. And upgrades to bring in more dollars.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
Parks: Pacific, Ocean City, Copalis, are part of the revenue source for Ocean Shores, Copalis, Pacific and Moclips. These are locations where people can afford to stay rather than pay expense of hotels. Where are these people going to stay for RV use and participate in activities that bring in tourism.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
If you close Ocean City. Would you consider turning it over to the City of Ocean Shores to operate?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings

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Many “volunteer” groups/individuals pay to participate in maintaining parks. Is this a viable possibility for keeping some parks open? Groups/institutions: Global Vols, Elderhostel, Eco-tourism are only 3 of many who organize these. When times are hard, parks are often one venue where families can get away inexpensively, possibly the only one. How is vandalism controlled?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
Ocean City Park may not have the “razzle dazzle” of other bigger state parks, but it’s natural beauty of the ocean beach is unsurpassed. Ocean Shores and this state park is the premier destination point on Washington’s coast.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
What are the feasibility to raise fees drastically, and open for 1/2 year. Say in the summer.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
Our rangers are more than an expense to be saved by closing parks and laying off ranger. Parks are bases for rangers as emergency preparedness. Losing park and ranger would be a disaster compounded.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Save Ocean City State Park! So very important to keep it as a campground, so many travel from st park to st park, coastal c. grounds are few in Washington Is this park closure a done deal or is it possible to work towards keeping it open. What are the most effective ways to challenge the budget cut?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
How do we save Ocean City park from closure. Ocean Shores economy and no other optional camping site available.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
How much of the budget was spent on the Mt Rainer repair on last year storm.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Aren’t costly parks year round income producers with high visitation. With economic short falls. Shouldn’t premium service i.e. RV camping be expanded?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
What is current status? Have decisions been made? What are the planning realities?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
What plans, if any, are being generated to raise funds to support parks?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation

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How may we learn the ratio of earned revenue to management costs for each “mothballed” park?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Recruit volunteers. I will gladly clean toilets, pick up litter and do maintenance.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
Is it possible that if Ocean City Park is closed that the city could take it over? Would state give land to city to run the park? What is revenue for Ocean City Park?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
I will volunteer to help keep up. I’ll be happy to pay fees again. I suggest setting up a fund to provide vouchers for low income people (via food banks!)	State Parks Budget Reductions - Revenue generation
Affect on economy.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
This is one of two very popular state parks on the north beach with overnight facilities and should remain open year round.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Use prisoners from our local prison to assist in cleanup and light maintenance of our parks including restrooms.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Cost savings
Will future re-opening be feasible? What is the likelihood that the cost of deferred maintenance will make re-opening cost prohibitive? Has this been done before? With what success?	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Need to check demographics of fall, winter, spring visitors. \$29 is <u>very</u> low.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks
Local concerned citizen group is frustrated by lack of info on state parks budget specifics. 7% of city revenue is generated through park visitors. Why not close parks further north and force visitors to Ocean City, where they can spend \$ in Ocean Shores. Parks is not paying attention to impacts on local economy. Very frustrated.	State Parks Budget Reductions - Importance of parks